

THE CITY COUNCIL/RDA MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON THE 2ND DAY OF MARCH, 2010 AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 608 HEBER AVENUE, CALEXICO, CA. THE DATE, HOUR AND PLACE DULY ESTABLISHED FOR THE HOLDING OF SAID MEETING.

CLOSED SESSION.

CALL TO ORDER.

The Closed Session portion of the agenda was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE.

Mayor:	David B. Ouzan
Mayor Pro Tem:	John Moreno
Councilman:	Luis J. Castro
Councilman:	Daniel Romero
Councilman:	Guillermo Hermosillo

The City Council convened into Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the following:

Conference with Labor Negotiators.

Agency Representatives: Victor M. Carrillo, Judith Hashem, Jennifer Lyon, Rosalind Guerrero

Employee Organizations: SEIU/CMEA; SEIU/Water-Wastewater Operators Assoc.; Supervisors Assoc.;

Police Officers Assoc.; Fire Fighters Assoc.; and Unrepresented Employees.

The City Council reconvened from Closed Session at 6:35 p.m. and no action was taken, direction was given.

REGULAR MEETING-6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER.

The regular meeting portion of the agenda was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Ouzan and those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: All Council members were present (Romero, Hermosillo, Ouzan, Moreno, Castro)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Moreno, seconded by Councilman Hermosillo and passed unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

PRESENTATION-MR. JASON COOKE OF STRATEGIC MEDICAL PROPERTIES ON BEHALF OF THE HEFFERNAN MEMORIAL HEALTH DISTRICT.

Mr. Jason Cooke proceeded to make a power point presentation (the same he made to the Heffernan Memorial Hospital District). Mr. Cooke stated that opening a third urgent care center in Calexico is not justifiable but then can have an urgent care center open for 24 hours.

Mayor Pro Tem Moreno asked if the Heffernan Memorial Hospital Board will provide the outreach. He was advised by Ms. Sylvia Bernal that they will provide the outreach. Mayor Pro Tem Moreno asked if this could be done in a workshop where the citizens can be informed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Mr. Bill Hodge, 402 Clarke, commented on the situation of the Heffernan Memorial Hospital Board and stated that based on previous meetings he has made a reflection. Mr. Hodge stated they cannot afford to lose the Hospital Board. He made reference to comments made by Council man Hermosillo at the last meeting and Councilman Hermosillo is correct, they need to hold every entity and person in the community accountable for taxpayers money but he does not agree in disbanding the Board, they should work with them but hold them accountable. There should be more awareness in the community. The Board needs to let people know what is going on. There needs to be transparency from the City Government and Hospital Board.

Mrs. Carmen Estrada, stated she is here to thank the Council for assisting the Calexico PAL program. She presented a plaque to the Chief of Police for his support to PAL. A plaque was also presented to City Manager because he is a respected citizen and she appreciates him. She thanked the parents, the coaches and the children. She stated she will bring better things for the community of Calexico and for the children.

Mayor Ouzan congratulated Mrs. Estrada for her hard work with PAL.

Chief of Police stated that the PAL program was run by volunteers. This is a perfect example that kids have a place to go for supervised activities. Two community meetings have been set to inform people what is taking place. These meetings will be held on March 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Camarena Memorial Library and on April 16th at 5:00 p.m. at the Esquer Building.

Mr. Salvador Cuevas recognized the support from the Chief of Police for providing opportunities to the kids in soccer, basketball, etc. The success of the girls basketball team was through the support of PAL. He thanked the parents for their assistance.

Mr. Victor Rodriguez, 1172 Sapphire reminded the Council of an old problem that still exists. He stated that he tried to cross the railroad tracks, going west, at approximately 6:35 a.m. and it took him 25 minutes to get across, there was a police car and an ambulance waiting to cross too.

Mayor Ouzan stated that in the past they have cited the railroad. He asked that a meeting be held at City Hall with representatives from the railroad.

Mr. Jose Iniguez, President of the Parent's Athletic League is here to ask for the Council's support on the use of the parks. They need the fields for soccer, softball, etc.

Mayor Ouzan informed that no action can be taken tonight but he can meet with the City Manager.

Mr. Louis Fuentes, Supervisor, stated that in regards to the train issue, the Union Pacific Railroad contacted the County and one of the big issues is to discuss the possibility of a new railroad link

between the Union Pacific and Mexicali. When they meet he will invite the City Manager and Council to discuss pending issues. He further stated he will be in Washington this week and if there are any concerns that he can follow up on please let him know. Mayor Ouzan stated that the railroad can be brought up during the trip to Washington, D.C.

Mr. Antonio Garcia, 1101 Amada Ct. is here to recognize someone that has helped them with the Calexico PAL and that is former Mayor Louis Fuentes. Mr. Garcia gave each member of the Council a letter requesting the use of the PAL office.

Mr. John Renison stated that in regards to the Heffernan Board, many years ago Sharps stated they could provide a hospital. Perhaps the Council can meet with them and if he can help in any way just let him know.

CONSENT AGENDA.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Moreno, seconded by Councilman Hermosillo and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following: Adopt resolution in support of the proposal for cleanup and abatement funds from the State Water Resources Control Board for the fiscal year 2009-10 to the City of Calexico and the California Environmental Protection Agency in a joint application to develop the New River Improvement Project under the guidelines set forth by AB 1079; Adopted second reading of ordinance by title only, waived full reading related to juvenile curfews; Approved to renew the service contract with the Calexico Unified School District with two changes to include the District paying salary and benefits for two (2) officers assigned as School Resource Officers and extending the contract to a three (3) year agreement; Approved out of state travel for three Police officers to attend the HIDTA-DHE National Conference and training in Las Vegas Nevada on April 20 & 21 2010 with all expenses reimbursed by the HIDTA-California Border Alliance; Authorized the designation of Alejandro Espinoza as the City Labor Compliance Coordinator.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2010.

Councilman Romero made reference to the minutes of February 2, 2010, page 7, fourth paragraph the name of the person speaking is Gabriela Romero, not Romo and she was representing Marina Topete, not Monica.

A motion was made by Councilman Romero, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moreno and passed unanimously to approve the minutes for February 2, 2010 with the above changes.

SECOND READING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE ORDERING THE SUBMISSION OF A MEASURE TO IMPLEMENT A TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX (A SALES TAX) IN THE AMOUNT OF .50 PERCENT TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY AT THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON JUNE 8, 2010.

Councilman Romero stated he is not in favor of this measure and wants the motion to reflect he is voting against it.

A motion was made by Mayor Ouzan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moreno to adopt the second reading of the ordinance ordering the submission of a measure to implement a transactions and use tax (a sales tax) in the amount of .50 percent to the qualified voters of the city at the General Municipal Election to be held on June 8, 2010. Voting was as follows:

AYES:	Hermosillo, Ouzan, Moreno, Castro
NOES:	Romero
ABSENT:	None

SECOND READING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE TO ADD CHAPTER 3.27 "GENERAL FUND TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX" TO TITLE 3 "REVENUE AND FINANCE" OF THE CALEXICO MUNICIPAL CODE TO IMPOSE A TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION.

A motion was made by Mayor Ouzan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moreno to adopt the second reading of ordinance adding to Chapter 3.27 "General Fund Transactions and Use Tax" to Title 3 "Revenue and Finance" of the Calexico Municipal Code to impose a transactions and use tax to be administered by the State Board of Equalization. Voting was as follows:

AYES:	Hermosillo, Ouzan, Moreno, Castro
NOES:	Romero
ABSENT:	None

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH W-PNP, INC. TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FOR 3 YEARS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 17, 2010 AT APPROXIMATELY \$4,000 PER MONTH, WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW FOR 2 ADDITIONAL YEARS, PLUS APPROXIMATELY 20 HOURS PER MONTH FOR A STANDARDIZATION SERVICES PLAN AT \$50 PER HOUR.

Councilman Castro made reference to this item and asked if someone from in-house could be hired for this position.

City Manager informed that currently the City has 248 computers in all departments that require a multitude of services by someone that has computer engineering background. They can advertise the position in-house.

Councilman Castro suggested the position be advertised in-house.

Councilman Romero stated that one of the things with this contract is that the City can terminate the services with a 30 day notice. This is a service the City needs and he has worked with this company in the past. Perhaps it would be prudent to go forward where the City can have an in-house technician where the person can be available 24/7.

Mr. Pena representing W-PNP stated it takes approximately 30 minutes to one hour to service one computer.

Councilman Romero stated that perhaps in the future they can have someone in house and contract the more in depth services as necessary.

Mayor Pro Tem Moreno stated most agencies hire a team of information technology support. The City does not have a technology department. It would be more costly to hire a team of technicians. He feels that out sourcing is a good idea.

A motion was made by Councilman Hermosillo, seconded by Mayor Ouzan to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contractual agreement with W-PNP Inc. to provide information technology services for 3 years beginning February 17, 2010, at approximately \$4,000 per month, with an option to renew for 2 additional years, plus approximately 20 hours per month for a standardization plan at \$50 per hours. Voting was as follows:

AYES:	Romero, Hermosillo, Ouzan, Moreno
NOES:	Castro
AB SENT:	None

**PUBLIC HEARING-ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT NO. 2009-02 (SIGN ORDINANCE UPDATE).
ADOPT CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION APPROVING NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 2009-12; ADOPT
ORDINANCE REPEALING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO SIGNS AND
REPLACING THEM WITH THE NEW UPDATED SIGN ORDINANCE (ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT
AMENDMENT NO. 2009-02).**

Mr. Armando Villa, Development Services Director, gave a brief background on this item and stated this is a result of comments received by Council in 2008. They attempted to put together some regulations for signs that would allow any business to have signage opportunities and to be able to keep the signs at scale and proportioned. The ordinance will not resolve the issue right away but eventually they will see improvements. They feel they have a very comprehensive ordinance that will deal with every type of sign.

Mayor Ouzan stated he would like to bring this item back due to the economy. This is a time for businesses to promote their business. He would like to revisit the issue of banners in six months to see how the economy is doing.

Councilman Hermosillo stated that regarding billboards the ordinance will not allow companies to apply for a business license can they apply for a conditional use permit? Mayor Pro Tem Moreno asked what happens to the existing billboards?

Mr. Villa stated that some of the billboards will be allowed to stay. Billboard companies can apply for a conditional use permit.

Mayor Ouzan stated direction is given to Mr. Villa to take this back to Planning Commission for an amendment.

Ms. Dennise Getter stated she has offered her services in drafting a billboard policy that would be beneficial to all.

PUBLIC HEARING-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAMS-CLOSEOUT.

Mr. Bill Hodge, stated he looked at the backup material and there were three grants and there are numbers on how much was spent on the different grants. The backup does not say how much was received in grants , if they cannot answer this tonight perhaps this item should be placed on the next agenda. He would like to know how much was received, how much was spent and how much does the city have to send back.

Ms. Rosalind Guerrero, Redevelopment and Economic Development Director, gave a brief background on this item and stated they applied for three different grants. A public hearing needs to be held at the closing of the grants. The first grant was for \$1.4 million to pay for administration and staff salaries. Under housing rehabilitation they spend \$857,900 and helped 23 families. They reconstructed the barrier wall along the east side of Highway 111 for a cost of \$283,600. The cultural arts building was rehabilitated at a cost of \$226,776 and they used \$24,700 for the fire sub station.

The second grant was for \$300,000 and this was a grant for the freeze, they assisted families that affected by the freeze with \$2,500 each and gave the food bank \$50,000.

The third grant was a colonia grant for \$900,000 they had to close the grant because of a disgruntled property owner and the money was not drawn.

A motion was made by Mayor Ouzan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moreno to approve the Community Development Block Grant Programs. Voting was as follows:

AYES:	Romero, Hermosillo, Ouzan, Moreno
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Castro (had temporary left the dais)

HIRING OF A POLICE OFFICER ON A "LIMITED TERM" BASIS TO BACKFILL BEHIND THE POLICE OFFICE TO BE ASSIGNED AS THE SECOND SRO FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Chief of Police stated this position would be paid by the School District.

A motion was made by Mayor Ouzan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moreno to approve the hiring of a Police Officer on a "limited term" basis to backfill behind the Police Office to be assigned as the second SRO for the School District. Voting was as follows:

AYES:	Romero, Hermosillo, Ouzan, Moreno
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Castro (had temporarily left the dais)

DISCUSSION REGARDING SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR DEPARTMENT HEAD POSITIONS.

A motion was made by Councilman Hermosillo, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moreno and passed unanimously to table this item.

Councilman Castro stated he has been on the Council for almost two years and they are struggling to balance the budget. In order to balance the budget he is recommending that the salaries of all department heads be reduced by 20%.

Mayor Pro Tem Moreno stated he disagrees with Councilman Castro, he feels that department heads have taken a hit with furloughs and he feels they should not be singled out like all the other employees. They need to set priorities. He feels that every employee that works for the city should be respected starting from the bottom to the top. He does not feel that singling out department heads is the answer. The reduction of 20% from the department heads salaries will not solve anything, he will stand up for the employees and department heads and everyone that works for the city. He feels they should table the item and see how they work to balance the budget.

Mr. Luis Casillas, Police Officer, 1235 Pepper Dr., El Centro, CA, stated the city sees them as the Public Safety monster. They are willing to take some of the responsibility and they are ready to negotiate. They are willing to work with the city and sacrifice furlough days. This is the perfect opportunity for the city to plan.

Mayor Ouzan stated he hopes the negotiations go smoothly because they are eager to address the budget.

Councilman Castro stated he feels that reducing the salaries of the department heads will help. They need to take care of the city as a business.

Mayor Pro Tem Moreno stated they should look at other avenues before reducing salaries or doing lay offs.

Councilman Romero stated it is difficult to single out any group. He feels that Councilman Castro's request is an intent to start something and this is a start. Difficult decisions will have to be made but how much longer can the Council wait to balance the budget? This cannot wait until April or May. If nothing is decided today it needs to be decided at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Bill Hodge, 402 Clarke St. commended Councilman Castro for taking the lead. He agrees that something needs to be done immediately. They all have to make sacrifices. They need to come up with innovative ways to balance the budget.

Councilman Romero stated he asked that the Financial Report be added to every agenda. City Manager stated it would be during the second meeting of every month.

DIRECTION REGARDING JOINING THE COUNTY OF IMPERIAL AND OTHER INCORPORATED CITIES IN IMPERIAL COUNTY IN SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO FORM ONE LARGE ENTERPRISE ZONE THAT WOULD INCLUDE MOST COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS IN IMPERIAL COUNTY.

City Manager provided background information on this item. He met with the County of Imperial and they will investigate further.

Mr. Daniel Fitzgerald, stated this was discussed two weeks ago. Direction was given in October to explore the options.

Mayor Pro tem Moreno stated he would like to deny this because El Centro has the sales tax revenue. Denying this will save them whatever enterprise they can get ahold of.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Moreno, seconded by Mayor Ouzan to deny this item.

Councilman Romero stated he met with Mr. Fitzgerald regarding this matter. He stated he would like to see the language of this and he would also like to know who will benefit from this.

The above motion was rescinded.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Moreno, seconded by Mayor Ouzan and passed unanimously to obtain more information to see if this is feasible and direction was given to do a further study and bring the item back.

REMOVAL OF LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER BY COUNCILMAN HERMOSILLO AND APPOINT OF NEW LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER.

Councilman Hermosillo removed his last appointment to the Library Board, Korina Tabarez. And asked that the position be advertised and then bring it back for an appointment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Mayor Pro Tem Moreno requested information of Code enforcement illegal issues.

Councilman Romero requested the title of the Mayor on dedications.

INFORMATION ITEMS.

The City Council acknowledge receipt of the following information items: Police Commission minutes for January 25, 2010.

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING.

FIRST TIME HOME BUYER DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM-SET MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000

A motion was made by Mayor Ouzan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moreno and passed unanimously to approve the first time home buyer down payment assistant program-set maximum amount of subsidy not to exceed \$40,000.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

David B. Ouzan, Mayor

Attest:

Lourdes Cordova, City Clerk